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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NANCY JEAN SIEGEL ARRESTED AND
CHARGED WITH FRAUD USING IDENTITY OF DEAD MAN**

Baltimore, Maryland and Loudoun County, Virginia - United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio for the District of Maryland; Loudoun County, Virginia Sheriff Stephen O. Simpson; Social Security Special Agent in Charge of the Baltimore office, Elizabeth Fartch; and Postal Inspection Service Special Agent in Charge Thomas Brady jointly announced today that Nancy Jean Siegel, age 55, of Baltimore, Maryland was arrested this morning by federal agents of the Social Security Administration, Postal Inspection Service and by detectives with the Loudoun County Sheriff's office pursuant to a warrant obtained by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland and based upon a criminal complaint that office has filed against Siegel charging her with bank fraud, mail and wire fraud, and theft from a government program.

According to the allegations of the complaint, Siegel used the identity of Jack Watkins, an elderly Maryland resident, to obtain credit based upon fraudulent information and to divert and convert to her own use Watkins' social security payments and payments from his retirement annuity. The complaint alleges that Siegel engaged in this scheme for over approximately 9 years-- much of

it while Watkins' was dead and his body unidentified.

According to the allegations of the complaint, Watkins's dead body was discovered on May 14, 1996 dumped near trash at an access point to the Appalachian Trail in Loudoun County, Virginia. The body had been stuffed into two duffle bags and then into a large storage trunk before being discarded between the hours of 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. on May 13, 1996. An autopsy revealed that Watkins had died of cervical compression, with corresponding abrasions and subcutaneous hemorrhages on the neck consistent with manual strangulation. The autopsy also revealed that there were a number of fresh cuts and abrasions on the body, as well as a blunt force injury to the back of the victim's head, which occurred sometime prior to his death. Further, toxicology analysis revealed that Watkins had toxic levels of medication with sedative effect in his system when killed.

After early attempts to identify the body failed, detectives with the Loudoun County Sheriff's office were ultimately successful in identifying the body from military records in January of 2003. Their subsequent investigation revealed the diversion of the Social Security payments, and a joint investigation was launched between federal agents and the Loudoun County Sheriff's office. Despite the federal criminal complaint and today's arrest, the investigation into the murder of Jack Watkins is ongoing. Anybody believing they may have information relevant to the investigation should contact the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office at 1-877-777-1931 or the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General at (202) 369-1531.

This case is being investigated by the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, the Postal Inspection Service, and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department. The Federal Bureau of Investigation assisted earlier in the investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Tamera L. Fine and Christine Manuelian.